

Update on Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP)

Requested Action: Review report, discuss outline and provide direction for an additional comment letter to the lead agencies on the Bay-Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP).

Summary

Independent consultant ARCADIS continues to perform targeted review of BDCP materials, identify and monitor major unresolved issues, and has prepared a discussion outline of potential scoping comments. The third report is attached.

Background

BDCP is intended to serve as a combined Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Community Conservation Plan and serve as the basis for a single biological opinion for water operations in the Delta. The BDCP is intended to provide for conservation of sensitive species and their habitats in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in a way that will protect and restore water supplies.

Ultimately, the lead federal and state agencies will produce the plan documents, and the required environmental documents, and present them to the BDCP Steering Committee. The BDCP Steering Committee will release a public viewing draft on November 18; a draft for public review including the draft EIR/EIS is scheduled for release in spring or early summer of 2011. After that, the document is intended to be the basis for both an Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Study (EIR/EIS).

Attached is the third report prepared by ARCADIS, the independent consultant hired to assist the Council in its responsibilities regarding the BDCP. Also attached for discussion at the meeting is a draft outline of scoping comments and a table of unresolved issues and the status of each.

It is important to note that the matrix is intended to identify currently unresolved issues – this does not mean that the issues are not being addressed within BDCP. In addition, ARCADIS has included brief comments regarding the status of each issue.

The consultants will brief the Council and then engage in a discussion with Council on how best to proceed with resolving/investigating issues with BDCP.

List of Attachments

Attachment 1 – Report from Independent Consultant, ARCADIS
Attachment 2 – Draft Outline of Scoping Letter
Attachment 3 – Summary List of Unresolved Issues to Date

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